

Remarks

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments above and comments which follow.

The Examiner has rejected to the drawings in the section set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Reconsideration is requested.

"Applicants note that 37 CFR 1.83(a) is a rule that is given by 35 U.S.C. §113. 35 U.S.C. §113 states that "applicants shall furnish a drawing where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter sought to be presented". The specification clearly describes "the additional shutter means" in the second paragraph on page 16. Accordingly, contrary to the Examiner's understanding, it is not necessary that "Drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the Claims". Should the Examiner have another understanding, applicants request that Examiner provide a rationale and authority for such understanding".

Rejection of Claims 148-153 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner asserts that the features of Claim 148 and its dependent claims are disclosed in Volcker. In the reply to our applicants' previous arguments included in the Office Action, the Examiner refers to the second paragraph on page 6 of the present Application as disclosing that "the reading heads in the German Application [assuming the Examiner actually to be referencing Volcker] are arranged side-by-side so as to simultaneously read a corresponding plurality of adjacent sites". However, the applicants cannot find the paragraph referred to in the specification.

In any event, although the Examiner asserts in the rejection that provision of "reading heads independently adjustable so that each is accurately positionable over a sample site" is disclosed by Volcker, this disclosure is not specifically identified and applicants cannot find it in Volcker. In Volcker, an object array is imaged by a minilens array 21, 22, 23 in Figure 1 or array 2i in Figure 2. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Volcker that lens elements in these arrays, or indeed any other part of the optical systems disclosed, are independently adjustable relative to respective

sample sites. Applicants must respectfully again request the Examiner to provide support for this rejection, or withdraw it.

Rejection of Claims 110-111, 144, 145-147

Amended Claims 110, 144 and 145 have each been amended to further distinguish their subject matter from the cited references. They have been amended to specify provision of optical fibres for mapping a plurality of parallel beams onto the detector of the system.

Such an arrangement was described in the second paragraph on page 21 of the original PCT Application with reference to Figure 5, and also for example in the penultimate paragraph on page 6, the second and third paragraphs on page 11 and original Claims 5, 22 and 23.

The use of optical fibres in this way enables the parallel beams to be mapped onto the detector in an appropriate manner to match the aspect ratio/configuration of the detector. Such a feature is not disclosed or suggested by any of the prior documents relied on by the Examiner.

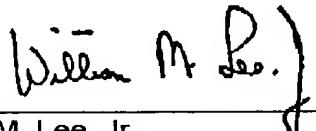
It is therefore urged that the application is fully in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration is requested.

As requested in the previous response, apparently something that the Examiner overlooked, an interview is requested, and if the Examiner and the undersigned have not made a connection by the time that the Examiner receives this response, it is requested that the Examiner telephone in that regard.

This response is being filed during the second month following the Examiner's final Office Action, as April 1, 2006 was a Saturday.

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Respectfully submitted,



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